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McFarlane chosen as security adviser

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President Reagan has chosen Robert C. McFarlane to succeed William P. Clark as his new national security adviser and is expected to make the formal announcement soon, probably today.

At the same time, informed administration sources said the

president also has decided to bring U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick to Washington as head of one of the semi-independent national security-oriented agencies. Kirkpatrick has been anxious to leave the United Nations to return to Washington and Reagan has wanted her closer than New York because of his high regard for her advice and counsel. "The president wants her to be his adviser in Washington as she has been in New York," said a senior official last night.

Reagan now is trying to decide where to place her so that she has a

power base instead of being a supernumerary of high rank. She is expected to retain her place in Reagan's Cabinet. Reagan made these decisions over the weekend at Camp David and made them known

yesterday to Clark and a few others.

Administration sources said Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and CIA Director Wil-

liam J. Casey were among those at White House meetings Friday and Saturday arguing that McFarlane, now Clark's deputy at the NSC, should have the same access to the Oval Office that Clark has enjoyed. At a National Security Policy Group meeting Friday, which was attended only by principals, Weinberger and Casey reportedly made it clear they had no ideological objection to McFarlane

But they, and Clark, wanted to be sure that McFarlane did not fall under control of any other White House official in the reorganization. Chief of Staff James A. Baker III also was reliably reported to have favored appointment of the 46-year-old former Marine officer and State Department counsel.

Weighing heavily in favor of McFarlane was the full backing of Clark whose advice Reagan prizes above all others on critical decisions. McFarlane was handpicked by Clark to be his deputy at the National Security Council but is detached to be the president's special peace envoy to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, The Washington Times has learned that Clark last week promoted his military assistant, Rear Adm. John Poindexter, to fill McFarlane's job as deputy national security adviser. This cleared the way for McFarlane to take either the new position or remain on the gruelling Mideast assignment.

Reagan now will have to find another troubleshooter for the Middle East crisis as well as a new ambassador to the U.N. Officials said Reagan has not yet gotten around to considering possible candidates for the U.N. ambassadorship and there is no clue as to who may be considered. It is expected that McFarlane's assistant, Richard Fairbanks, former assistant secretary of state for congressional affairs, will likely take over the shuttle diplomacy task.

The national security adviser is not subject to Senate confirmation but Clark, the president's nominee to replace James G. Watt as secretary of the interior, is expected to face rugged questioning on environmental issues when he appears at Senate hearings on his nomination. The White House is not expected to send Clark to Capitol

Hill until Congress adjourns in November to give Clark more time to prepare for what are expected to be contentious hearings for which he is hardly prepared at this juncture.

The same forces who unceasingly sought the scalp of Watt because of his policies and his unfortunate phrase-making are expected to zero in on Clark, a conservative of the same beliefs as Reagan and Watt.

Some officials anticipate a delay in the hearings until January so that Clark can prepare himself for a heavy quizzing from anti-administration senators.

White House insiders say it was sheer coincidence that McFarlane was in Washington for consultations when the Watt resignation was followed by the bombshell Clark nomination. But McFarlane is well known to the president and thoroughly trusted by Clark and that was enough for Reagan. In addition, the State Department and Secretary George P. Shultz supported McFarlane because they were not anxious to see the strong-willed Kirkpatrick move into the powerful NSC position.

The only argument against McFarlane was that while he was a Marine major, he served in the NSC under Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and then-Col. Alexander M. Haig Jr. But McFarlane is an expert on the nuclear arms negotiations now reaching a critical stage in Geneva and is more current than anyone else on the boiling crisis in the Middle East.

Poindexter, a Naval Academy graduate, is a capable administrator inherited by Clark from Richard V. Allen in the NSC. He is still on the active Navy list but does not have the rank for dealing with the

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